



GOOD JOBS AND LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS COALITION

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**Resident Participation Key to Revitalization
of 30th Street Corridor**

Milw., WI. In response to today's public meeting detailing assessments of contaminated sites in the 30th Street Corridor, a community Coalition calls on public authorities to prioritize the voice of neighborhood residents in the planning and implementation of environmental clean-up and redevelopment activities.

According to the DNR, there are about 200 contaminated sites in the Corridor. Many sit abandoned and others are underutilized, most notably the former AO Smith/Tower Automotive site. In addition to potentially threatening human health, these sites contribute to poverty because they deter new businesses from coming into the area.

"Tuesday's public meeting is a requirement of \$400,000 site assessment grant money that the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of City Development have been awarded,"

noted Pam Fendt, director of the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition. “With the right attitude and responsiveness on the part of public officials, future decision-making will be enriched through the community input. The meeting can be so much more than just a task on a workplan for the grant.”

Jennifer Epps, organizer of the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition has been staffing a group of concerned area residents for the past six months. Epps stated “Residents are very interested in being able to be active participants at the meeting, and want to work in partnership with the DNR/City to ensure the highest level of participation from area residents. We hope that the meeting on the 22nd will be a starting point to further build and strengthen our relationships and to move the Brownfield environmental remediation work forward in a way that positively impacts the people in our neighborhoods.”

“One exciting possibility is that residents could be trained for environmental clean up jobs in the area,” commented Melissa Scanlan, Founder and Senior Counsel of Midwest Environmental Advocates. “In order to pursue this idea, we need the DNR and the City to provide an analysis of what contaminants they have found in the Corridor, as the first step in designing a training curriculum that could jump start new business opportunities. We hope that will be an outcome of this meeting too.”

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Fast Facts

- DNR Open House on the Brownfields in the 30th St. Corridor is being held today, April 22, 2008, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fitzsimonds Boys & Girls Club Cafeteria 3400 W. North Avenue, Milwaukee.
- The 30th St. Corridor is in central Milwaukee, running from approximately Miller Brewing on the south end of the Corridor to Hampton on the northern end of the Corridor, and encompassing the former AO Smith/Tower Automotive site.
- Good Jobs Livable Neighborhoods is a coalition of area labor, faith, social justice and community-based organizations. We promote a model of economic development known as community benefits in appropriate venues, through public policy advocacy and community organizing. www.gjln.org
- Midwest Environmental Advocates is Wisconsin’s first and only public interest environmental law center. Midwest Environmental Advocates provides legal and technical support to grassroots organizations that are fighting for clean air, clean water, and environmental justice. See www.midwestadvocates.org for more information.